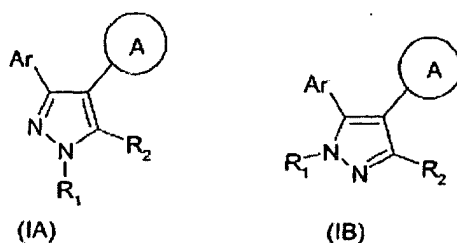


The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (IA) or (IB) or a salt, N-oxide, hydrate or solvate thereof:



wherein

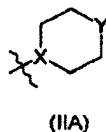
Ar is an aryl, aryl(C₁-C₆-alkyl), heteroaryl, or heteroaryl(C₁-C₆-alkyl) group, any of which being optionally substituted in the aryl or heteroaryl part thereof a 2,4-dihydroxyphenyl group which is optionally further substituted in the 5-position,

R₁ is hydrogen or optionally substituted C₁-C₆-alkyl;

R₂ is hydrogen, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-alkenyl, or C₁-C₆-alkynyl; or a carboxyl, carboxamide or carboxyl ester group; and

R₁ and R₂ are independently hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n- or iso-propyl, hydroxyethyl, or benzyl;

ring A is a ring of formula (IIA) ~~non aromatic carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring~~



wherein X represents N, and Y represents CH, O, S or NH.

wherein (i) a ring carbon is optionally substituted, and/or (ii) a ring nitrogen is optionally substituted by a group of formula -(Alk¹)_p-(Cyc)_n-(Alk³)_m-(Z)_r-(Alk²)_s-Q where

Alk¹, Alk² and Alk³ are optionally substituted C₁-C₃ alkyl,

Cyc is an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical; phenylene radical;

m, n, p, r and s are independently 0 or 1,

Z is -O-, -S-, -(C=O)-, -SO₂-, -C(=O)O-, -OC(=O)-, -NR^A-, -C(=O)NR^A-,

-NR^AC(=O)-, -SO₂NR^A-, or -NR^ASO₂- wherein R^A is hydrogen or C₁-C₆ alkyl, and

Q is hydrogen or an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical; and

wherein "optionally substituted" means substituted with up to four substituents, each of which is independently selected from (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl, mercapto, mercapto(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, nitro, nitrile, oxo, phenyl, -COOH, -COOR^A, -COR^A, -SO₂R^A, -CONH₂, -CONHNH₂, -CONHNHR^A, -CONHNRR^A, -SO₂NH₂, -CONHR^A, SO₂NHR^A, -CONR^AR^B, -SO₂NR^AR^B, -NH₂, -NHR^A, -NR^AR^B, -OCONH₂, -OCONHR^A, -OCONR^AR^B, -NHCOR^A, -NHCOOR^A, -NR^BCOOR^A, -NHCO₂OR^A, -NR^BSO₂OR^A, -NHCONH₂, -NR^ACONH₂, -NHCONHR^B, -NR^ACONHR^B, -NHCONR^AR^B, and -NR^ACONR^AR^B wherein R^A and R^B are independently a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group.

Claims 2-8 (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R₁ and R₂ are each hydrogen.

Claims 10-12 (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim ~~11~~ 9 wherein ~~the optionally substituted ring A is of in the ring of~~ formula (IIA), X is N, and Y is -NR^A - wherein R^A is a radical of formula -(Alk¹)_s-Q, wherein Alk¹ is a C₁-C₃ alkylene radical and Q is optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, oxadiazolyl, imidazolyl or morpholinyl. wherein optionally substituted is defined as in claim 1.

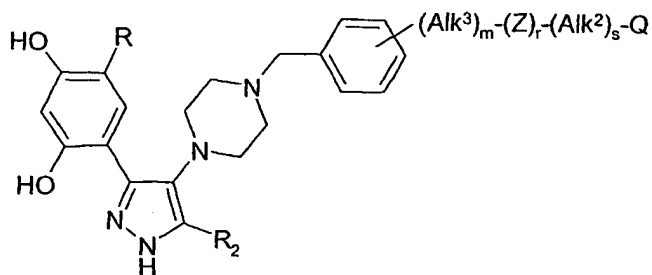
14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim ~~11~~ 9 wherein ~~the optionally~~

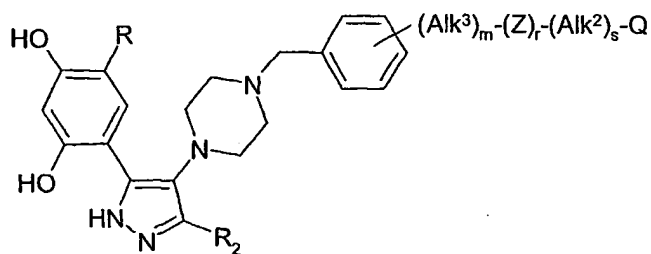
~~substituted ring A is of in the ring of formula (IIA), X is N, and Y is -NR^A- wherein R^A is a radical of formula -(Alk¹)_p-(Cyc)_n-(Alk³)_m-(Z)_r-(Alk²)_s-Q wherein Alk¹, Alk², Alk³, Cyc, Z and Q are as defined in claim 1.~~

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (IC) or (ID) or a salt, N-oxide, hydrate or solvate thereof:



(IC)



(ID)

wherein R is hydrogen, an optional substituent, or a phenylethyl group which is optionally substituted in the phenyl ring, and R₂, m, r, s, Alk³, Z, and Alk²-Alk² and optionally substituted are as defined in claim 1.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 17 wherein \underline{n} is 0, r is 1, and Z is -
 $C(=O)NH-$.

Claims 21 – 27 (Canceled)

28. (New) A compound as claimed in claim 13 wherein Ar is a 2,4-dihydroxyphenyl group which is further substituted in the 5-position by chloro or bromo; or by optionally substituted phenyl or C_1-C_6 alkyl; or by a phenylethyl group which is optionally substituted in the phenyl ring thereof, and wherein "optionally substituted" is as defined in claim 1.